

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder, comprising a plurality of substantially parallel tubular sleeves, each sleeve extending between opposite sleeve ends and being joined to at least one adjacent sleeve and having at one or both of said ends an entrance with dimensions suitable for receiving just one drum stick, wherein at least one of the sleeves has an entrance at both of said ends and each sleeve is formed from an integral tube of elastomeric material that extends fully around a longitudinal axis of the sleeve, wherein each entrance is fully open and said plurality of sleeves are arranged in a single row so that each sleeve may hold ~~at least one~~ drum stick, inserted into the ~~each~~ ~~said at least one drum stick inserted into an~~ entrance at one or both of said ends of said sleeves.

2. (Original) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1, in which each of said sleeves has a longitudinal axis, and each of said axes lies in a common plane that extends through each sleeve.

3. (Previously Presented) A drum stick holder as claimed in

Claim 2, in which each sleeve is joined to an adjacent sleeve by means of a web of elastomeric material.

4. (Previously Presented) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 3, in which the or each web of material lies in said plane in which said longitudinal axes lie.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1, in which all of the sleeves have an entrance at both ends.

7. (Previously Presented) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1, in which the holder comprises one or more plugs that may be removably inserted into one or more corresponding sleeves to close off one end of said sleeve(s).

8. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 67, in which at least one plug when inserted into a sleeve is adjustable along an axial direction to vary the depth of said

sleeve.

9. (Previously Presented) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1 , in which each of said sleeves is integrally moulded with the other sleeve(s) as an extrusion.

10. (Previously Presented) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1 , in which at least one sleeve is tapered internally to aid insertion of a drum stick into the sleeve and to grip the drum stick once inserted into the sleeve.

11. (Previously Presented) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1 , in which a tear strip separates at least two adjacent sleeves so that at least one sleeve may be torn from the drum stick holder to reduce the number of sleeves.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1 , in which each sleeve has an annular cross-section.

14. (Previously Presented) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1 , comprising additionally a mount for mounting the holder to a drum kit, the arrangement being such that each sleeve is supported by the mount.

15. (Previously Presented) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 14, in which the mount is affixed to one end of at least one sleeve.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 14, in which the mount includes at least one projection which locates in at least one corresponding sleeve in order to secure the mount to the sleeves.

18. (Previously Presented) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 14, in which the mount is a bracket seated in a radially extending slot at an end of a sleeve.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1 , in which one or more sleeves has a stepped internal diameter.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1 , in which there are at least three sleeves , at least one middle sleeve projecting forwards of adjacent outermore sleeves relative to an insertion direction for drum sticks.

23. (Previously Presented) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1 , in which there are at least three sleeves , at least one middle sleeve projecting inwards of adjacent outermore sleeves relative to an insertion direction for drum sticks.

24. (Previously Presented) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 22, in which the open ends of said sleeves are arranged in a V-pattern.

25. (Currently Amended) An accessory for a percussion instrument comprising a drum stick holder and at least one drum stick, said holder having at least one elastomeric sleeve and the drum stick being inserted partially into said sleeve to expand at least to some degree the sleeve so that the sleeve thereby holds or grips the drum stick, wherein the drum stick holder comprises a plurality of substantially parallel tubular sleeves, each sleeve extending between opposite sleeve ends and being joined to at least one adjacent sleeve and having at one or both of said ends an entrance with dimensions suitable for receiving just one drum stick, wherein at least one of the sleeves has an entrance at both of said ends and each sleeve is formed from an integral tube of elastomeric material that extends fully around a longitudinal axis of the sleeve and each entrance is fully open and said plurality of sleeves are arranged in a single row so that each sleeve may hold ~~at least one~~ drum stick, inserted each said at least one ~~drum stick inserted~~ into the an entrance of said sleeve.